

19. (currently amended) A testing device for the identification of an analyte of interest, comprising:

- a. a housing having a sample application matrix adapted for:
  - i. receipt of a liquid-containing sample;
  - ii. desiccation of the liquid-containing sample *in situ*; and
  - iii. rehydration of the desiccated liquid-containing sample for transfer to a testing element; and
- b. at least one aperture in the housing to receive a testing element inserted therein and hold said testing element in direct liquid-conductive communication with the sample application matrix; and
- c. at least one insertable testing element adapted for, the or each testing element, on insertion into an aperture in the housing, being retained within the housing in liquid-conductive communication with the sample application matrix, such that upon rehydration of the desiccated sample, resolubilized or resuspended components of the liquid sample are carried from the sample application matrix to the testing element or elements.

20-32 (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) A testing device for the identification of an analyte of interest, said testing device comprising:

- a. a housing having a sample application matrix adapted for receiving a plurality of samples at discrete locations thereon, and aggregating the samples; and
- b. at least one aperture in the housing to receive a testing element inserted therein and hold said testing element in direct liquid-conductive communication with the sample application matrix; and
- c. at least one insertable testing element, the or each testing element, on insertion into an aperture in the housing, being retained within the housing in liquid-conductive communication with the sample application matrix, such that a wherein the single test may be performed to simultaneously determine presence of the analyte of interest in a plurality of samples having discrete origin.

34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 3433, wherein ~~said sample application matrix is adapted for:~~

- i. ~~receipt of a liquid-containing sample~~ is received by said sample application matrix;
- ii. ~~desiccation of the liquid-containing sample~~ the sample is desiccated in situ; and
- iii. ~~rehydration of the desiccated liquid-containing sample~~ is rehydrated for transfer to said testing element or elements.

36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 33, wherein ~~a dried said sample application matrix is adapted for receipt of a dried sample~~ is received by said sample application matrix.

38. (currently amended) A testing device for the identification of an analyte of interest, said testing device comprising:

- a. a housing having at least one sample orifice selectively openable and sealable for admitting and sealably maintaining a plurality of samples therein, and at least one test orifice ~~adapted for~~ insertion of a testing element or elements therein;
- b. a sample application matrix disposed within said housing in communication with said at least one sample orifice and said at least one test orifice, ~~said sample application matrix adapted for~~ wherein:

- i. ~~receipt of the plurality of samples thereon~~ are received by said sample application matrix; and
- ii. ~~aggregating the plurality of samples~~ are aggregated thereon, wherein the such that a plurality of samples of discrete origin are adapted for being may be applied and sealed within said testing device, and subsequently tested in the aggregate.

39. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 38, wherein ~~said sample application matrix is adapted to receive the plurality of samples~~ are received at a single location ~~thereon~~on said sample application matrix.
40. (cancelled)
41. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 38, wherein ~~said sample application matrix is adapted to receive the plurality of samples~~ are received at discrete locations ~~thereon~~on said sample application matrix, and ~~said matrix being adapted for aggregating aggregates~~ the samples upon said insertion of the testing element or elements.
42. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 38, wherein ~~said at least one sample orifice further comprises housing~~ has a plurality of sample orifices selectively openable and sealable for admitting and sealably maintaining the plurality of samples therein.
- 43-45 (cancelled)
46. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 38, further comprising at least one testing element adapted for insertion through the or each said test orifice for testing the plurality of samples.
47. (cancelled)
48. (currently amended) The testing device of claim 4738, wherein at least one of the plurality of samples contains liquid, and ~~said sample application matrix is further adapted for~~  
~~desiccation of the at least one of the plurality of samples~~ the liquid-containing sample is desiccated on said sample application matrix *in situ*; the desiccated sample is rehydrated thereon~~rehydration of the desiccated at least one sample~~; and

aggregation of resolubilized or resuspended components of said at least one sample are aggregated with at least one other of the plurality of samples for testing.

49. (cancelled)

50. (currently amended) A testing device for the identification of an analyte of interest from a plurality of samples, at least one of the plurality of samples containing liquid, said testing device comprising:

- a. a housing having a sample application matrix adapted for:  
receipt of the plurality of samples at discrete locations thereon;  
desiccation of the at least one of the plurality of liquid-containing sample or  
samples *in situ*;  
rehydration of the desiccated sample or hydration of the plurality of samples; and  
aggregation of solubilized or suspended components of the plurality of  
liquid sample or samples for analyte analysis.;
- b. at least one aperture in the housing to receive a testing element inserted therein  
and hold said testing element in direct liquid-conductive communication with the  
sample application matrix; and
- c. at least one insertable testing element, the or each testing element, on insertion  
into an aperture in the housing, being retained within the housing in liquid-  
conductive communication with the sample application matrix, wherein a single  
test may be performed to simultaneously determine presence of the analyte of  
interest in a plurality of samples having discrete origin.

51-56 (cancelled)